

have to do more to support women and their children when they are most vulnerable, during pregnancy and early childhood.

I also strongly support, and have for years, family planning programs, because they avoid sometimes those dark moments when a woman, often alone, faces a pregnancy she feels she cannot handle. I also support family planning programs precisely because they reduce the number of abortions.

But that is not the issue I address today. Today, with this bill, I am focused on the woman who is pregnant, and I am asking myself, and I think Congress and the administration, as any Congress and any administration has to ask themselves this fundamental question: For that woman who is facing that crisis in her life, we have to ask ourselves, as a Congress and as a society: What more can we do? What more can we do to help her? That is the question we must continually ask. I think if we ask that question today, the answer, unfortunately, is: Not enough.

We are not doing enough. I believe there is more common ground in America than we might realize on these questions, if only we focus on how we can truly help and support that woman who wishes to carry her pregnancy to term and how we can give her and her child what they need to begin healthy and productive lives together.

For the past 34 years, unfortunately, the issue of abortion has been used mostly as a way to divide people, even as the number of abortions remains and still remains unacceptably high. We have to find a better way.

I believe this legislation, the Pregnant Women Support Act, is a part of that better way. I believe we must look toward real solutions to the issue of abortion by targeting the underlying factors that often lead women to make the decision to have an abortion. This is precisely what this act, the Pregnant Women Support Act, will do.

I really believe when it comes to this issue of helping a pregnant woman, we need to consider what our obligations are. I think we can state it very simply: We need to walk in solidarity with her, in her pregnancy, especially when it is an unplanned pregnancy, and we need to support her and give her all the help we can at this time in her life.

That is exactly what this bill does for women who may find themselves in a position where they are facing one of the most difficult situations in their life. The woman who has no one to turn to for advice, for counsel, or for support, we have got to be there for her at that moment and for a long time thereafter.

I truly believe there are few things more terrifying than the prospect of supporting another human being when you have no support of your own. Unfortunately, far too many women face that decision, face that crisis.

So I believe reducing the number of abortions should not be a partisan

issue. It should not pit Republicans against Democrats. So what do I seek? I seek common ground, and I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in seeking real solutions that will unite us in providing life with dignity, before—before—and after the birth of a child, for a pregnant woman, for her family, and for her child. Surely, we must all agree that no woman should ever have to face the crisis of an unplanned pregnancy all alone.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

##### SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 58—WELCOMING FIRST MINISTER DR. IAN PAISLEY AND DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER MARTIN MCGUINNESS OF NORTHERN IRELAND TO THE UNITED STATES

Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. DODD, Mr. REED, Mr. KERRY, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. SMITH, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. LEAHY) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 58

Whereas, on May 8, 2007, power was restored to the Assembly of Northern Ireland, opening a new chapter in the history of Northern Ireland;

Whereas Dr. Ian Paisley became First Minister and Martin McGuinness became Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland;

Whereas Dr. Paisley and Mr. McGuinness have been working to solidify the peace agreement and to govern Northern Ireland effectively; and

Whereas Dr. Paisley and Mr. McGuinness are making their first trip together to the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—*

(1) welcomes First Minister Dr. Ian Paisley and Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness of Northern Ireland to the United States;

(2) commends Dr. Paisley and Mr. McGuinness for showing the world that it is possible to rise above decades of bitter sectarian violence to achieve peace; and

(3) expresses hope that Northern Ireland will continue to be peaceful and stable in the future.

#### NOTICE OF HEARING

##### PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Subcommittee on Energy of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources will hold a joint hearing entitled, "Speculation in the Crude Oil Market." This joint hearing of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations and the Subcommittee on Energy will examine the role of speculation in recent record crude oil prices. Witnesses for the upcoming hearing will

include the Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration and energy market experts. A final witness list will be available Friday, December 7, 2007.

The subcommittee hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, December 11, 2007, at 10:00 a.m. in room 216 of the Hart Senate Office Building. For further information, please contact Elise Bean of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

##### SUBCOMMITTEE ON STATE, LOCAL, AND PRIVATE SECTOR PREPAREDNESS AND INTEGRATION

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on State, Local, and Private Sector Preparedness and Integration of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, December 4, 2007, at 2:30 p.m. in order to conduct a hearing entitled, "The New Madrid Seismic Zone: Whose Fault Is It Anyway?"

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, December 4, 2007, at 2:30 p.m., in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building, for the purposes of conducting a hearing.

#### Agenda

S. 1581, Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring Act of 2007; S. 2307, Global Change Research Improvement Act of 2007; S. 2355, Climate Change Adaptation Act of 2007; S. 2332, Media Ownership Act of 2007; Nominations for Promotion in U.S. Coast Guard (PN 1039 and PN 1055); and Nominations for Promotion in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commission Corps (PN 1014).

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate in order to conduct a hearing entitled "Developing a Comprehensive Response to Food Safety" on Tuesday, December 4, 2007, at 10:30 a.m. in SD-430.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the

Senate, in order to conduct a hearing entitled "Electronic Prescribing of Controlled Substances: Addressing Health Care and Law Enforcement Priorities" on Tuesday, December 4, 2007, at 10 a.m. in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

#### Witness List

Panel I: Joseph T. Rannazzisi, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Drug Enforcement Administration, Office of Diversion Control, Alexandria, VA and Tony Trenkle, Director, Office of E-Health Standards and Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Baltimore, MD;

Panel II: Laura Adams, President and CEO, Rhode Island Quality Institute, Providence, RI; Kevin Hutchinson, CEO, Sure Scripts, Alexandria, VA; David Miller, Chief Security Officer, Covisint, Detroit, MI; and Mike A. Podgurski, R.Ph., Vice President, Pharmacy Services, Rite Aid Corporation, Camp Hill, PA.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, December 4, 2007, at 9:30 a.m., in order to conduct a hearing entitled, "Credit Card Practices: Unfair Interest Rate Increases."

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Republican Leader, pursuant to Public Law 100-696, announces the appointment of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) as a member of the United States Capitol Preservation Commission, vice the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD).

#### WELCOMING FIRST MINISTER DR. IAN PAISLEY AND DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER MARTIN MCGUINNESS OF NORTHERN IRELAND

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Con. Res. 58 submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 58) welcoming First Prime Minister Dr. Ian Paisley and Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness of Northern Ireland to the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concur-

rent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc, and any statements relating to the concurrent resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 58) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

#### S. CON. RES. 58

Whereas, on May 8, 2007, power was restored to the Assembly of Northern Ireland, opening a new chapter in the history of Northern Ireland;

Whereas Dr. Ian Paisley became First Minister and Martin McGuinness became Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland;

Whereas Dr. Paisley and Mr. McGuinness have been working to solidify the peace agreement and to govern Northern Ireland effectively; and

Whereas Dr. Paisley and Mr. McGuinness are making their first trip together to the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—*

(1) welcomes First Minister Dr. Ian Paisley and Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness of Northern Ireland to the United States;

(2) commends Dr. Paisley and Mr. McGuinness for showing the world that it is possible to rise above decades of bitter sectarian violence to achieve peace; and

(3) expresses hope that Northern Ireland will continue to be peaceful and stable in the future.

#### DECLARING OF A COMMERCIAL FISHERY FAILURE

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Commerce Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 376 and that the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 376) providing the sense of the Senate that the Secretary of Commerce should declare a commercial fishery failure for the groundfish fishery for Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island, and immediately propose regulations to implement section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 376) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

#### S. RES. 376

Whereas the Secretary of Commerce may provide fishery disaster assistance under section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1861a(a)) if the Secretary determines that there is a commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster as a result of natural causes, man-made causes beyond the control of fishery managers to mitigate through conservation and management measures, including regulatory restrictions imposed to protect human health or the marine environment, or undetermined causes;

Whereas the Secretary of Commerce has not proposed or promulgated regulations to implement such section 312(a);

Whereas during 2007, the Governors of each of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the State of Maine, and the State of Rhode Island requested that the Secretary of Commerce declare a commercial fishery failure for the groundfish fishery under such section 312(a) and the Governor of the State of New Hampshire has indicated his intention of submitting a similar request;

Whereas since 1996, the Secretary of Commerce has had regulations in place that require significant restrictions and reductions on the catch and days-at-sea of New England fishermen in the groundfish fishery;

Whereas New England fishermen in the groundfish fishery have endured additional restrictions and reductions under Framework 42, which has resulted in many fishermen having just 24 days to fish during a season;

Whereas Framework 42 and other Federal fishing restrictions have had a great impact on small-boat fishermen, many of whom cannot safely fish beyond the inshore areas;

Whereas, as of the date of the enactment of this Act, each day-at-sea a fisherman spends in an inshore area reduces that fisherman's number of available days-at-sea by 2 days;

Whereas the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has provided information to the Secretary of Commerce demonstrating that between 1994 and 2006, overall conditions of groundfish stocks have not improved and that spawning stock biomass is near record lows for most major groundfish stocks;

Whereas the Commonwealth of Maine has provided additional information to the Secretary that between 2005 and 2006, total Massachusetts commercial groundfish vessel revenues (landings) decreased by 18 percent and there was a loss for related industries and communities estimated at \$22,000,000;

Whereas the State of Maine has provided information to the Secretary of Commerce indicating that since 1994, the impact of groundfish regulations have eliminated 50 percent of Maine's groundfish fleet, leaving just 110 active groundfish fishermen;

Whereas the State of Maine has provided additional information to the Secretary indicating that between 1996 and 2006, there was a 58 percent drop in groundfish landings in Maine and a 45 percent drop in groundfish revenue from approximately \$27,000,000 to \$15,000,000 and that between 2005 and 2006, groundfish revenues decreased 25 percent;

Whereas the State of Rhode Island has provided information to the Secretary of Commerce indicating that, since 1994, there has been a 66 percent drop in Rhode Island's groundfish fishery landings and, between 1995 and 2007, groundfish revenue decreased 20 percent from approximately \$7,500,000 to \$6,000,000;

Whereas the Secretary of Commerce rejected requests from Massachusetts, Maine, and Rhode Island to declare a commercial fishery failure prior to establishing any appropriate standard to implement section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act; and